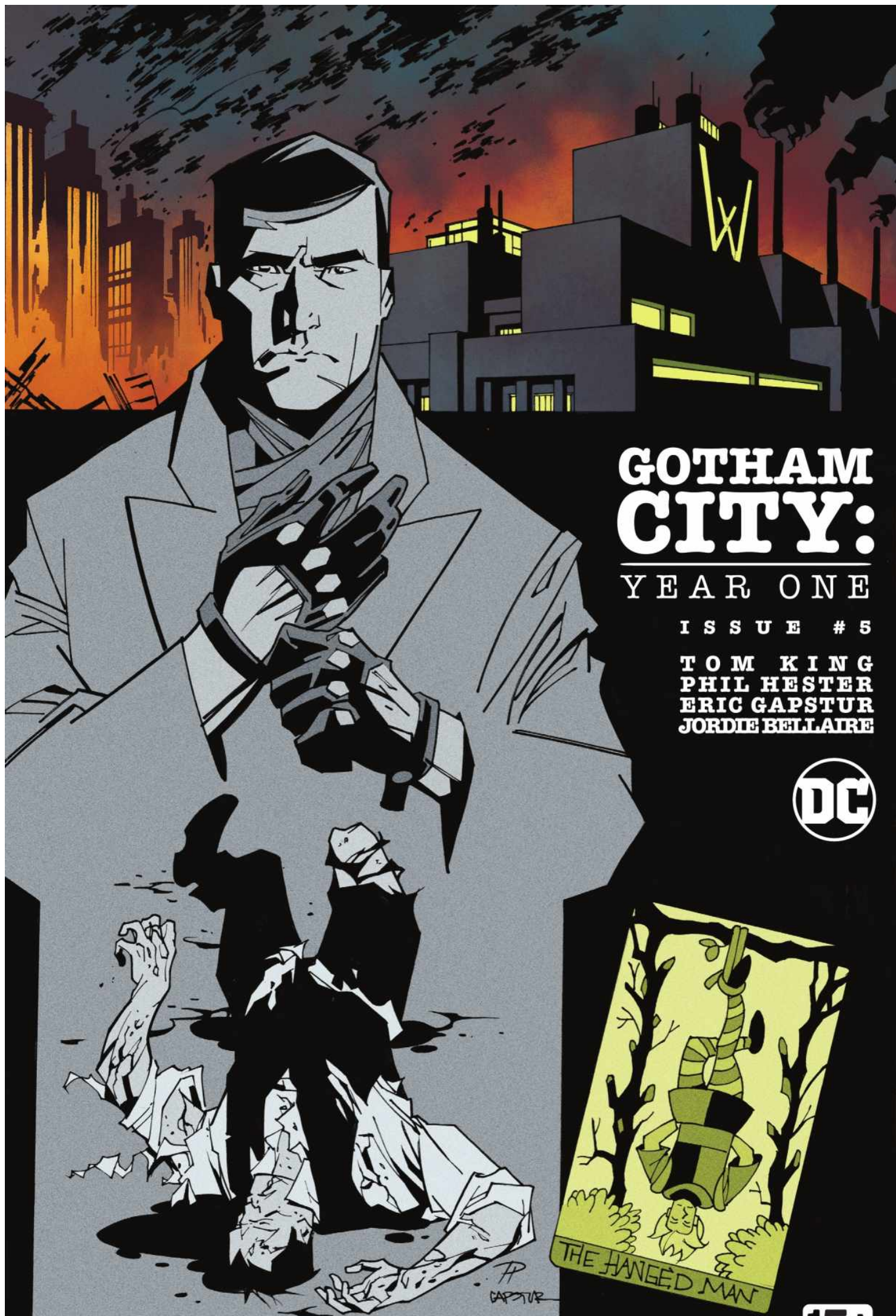




GOTHAM CITY:

YEAR ONE

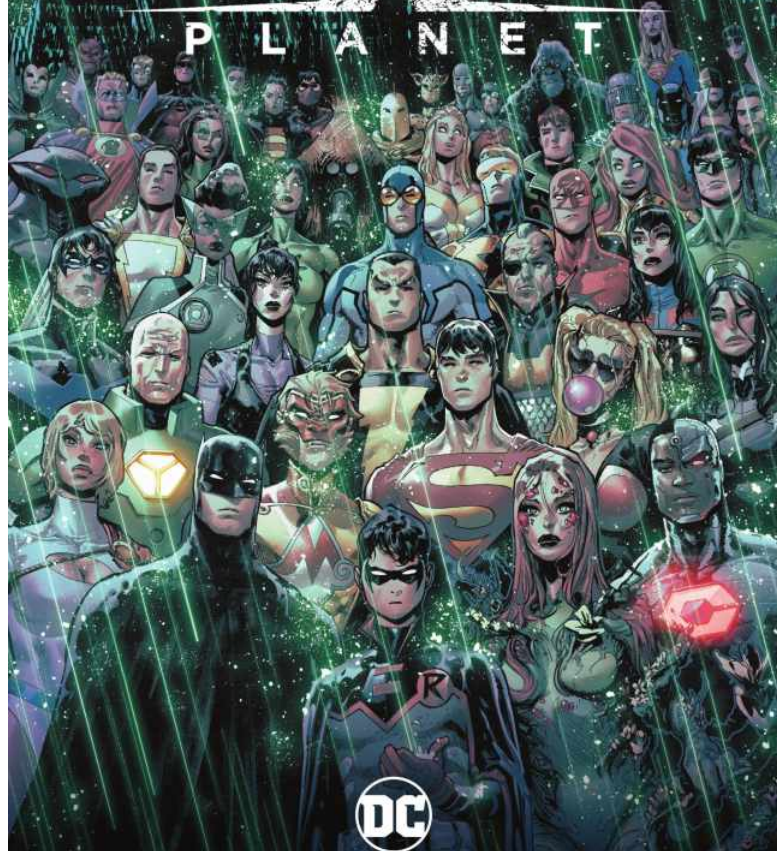
ISSUE #5

TOM KING
PHIL HESTER
ERIC GAPSTUR
JORDIE BELLAIRE



HEROES TRANSFORMED. SECRETS REVEALED. POWERS UNLEASHED.

DC UNIVERSE LAZARUS PLANET



THE GAME-CHANGING TWO-MONTH EPIC CONCLUDES IN FEBRUARY!

LAZARUS PLANET: OMEGA #1 COVER BY DAVID MARQUEZ

HEROES WILL BE BORN!
NEW THREATS WILL RISE!



Lazarus Planet: Next Evolution #1



Lazarus Planet: Dark Fate #1



Lazarus Planet: Omega #1

WRITTEN BY

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SHARMA, LAURA BRAGA, ALITHA MARTINEZ,
RO STEIN, BALDEMAR RIVAS, CHRIS BURNHAM,
A.L. KAPLAN, and HAINING







WOULD
YOU CARE FOR
SOME MORE,
SIR?

♪ THERE ARE
TIMES WHEN YOU
FEEL SAD AND
BLUE... ♪

♪ ...SOMETHING'S
WRONG, YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO. ♪



SIR?

♪ WHEN YOU FEEL
THAT WAY, STOP AND
THINK AWHILE... ♪



YES.

I WILL
HAVE QUITE
A BIT MORE,
I THINK.

INDEED,
THANK
YOU.



♪ ...JUST MAKE
BELIEVE AND
SMILE. ♪



THIS IS
#&%@% NUTSO,
RICHARD.

WE CAN'T...
I MEAN, NO.
NO, NO, NO. IT'S A
SIN JUST US TALKING
IT THROUGH
LIKE THIS.

I GOT
TO SHUT MY
MOUTH UP TIGHT
AND STOP RIGHT
HERE.

THE SIN
IS THAT I LET
THAT WOMAN COSIGN
ON MY FAMILY'S
ESTATE.

ACCOUNTANTS.
TAXES. ALL THAT
BUREAUCRATIC
@&#&.

THERE IS
NOTHING MORE
TRAGIC THAN A YOUNG
MAN AND AN UNREAD
CONTRACT.



WHO IN HEAVEN
EVEN NEEDS THE
MONEY?

WE'LL GO
TO METROPOLIS.
WE'LL FIND NEW LIVES
OR OLD LIVES THAT WE
CAN LIVE BRAND-
NEW.

I'LL DANCE,
AND YOU CAN FIND
SOMETHING TO BUILD.
YOU BUILT HERE, YOU
BUILD THERE. ALL IS
HUNKY AND DORY AND
EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.



THE CASH WILL BUY ME THE BEST
LAWYERS IN THE COUNTRY--ONES I
CAN'T EXACTLY ASK MY WIFE TO
SIGN OFF ON RIGHT NOW.

IN TURN,
THESE MEN
WILL WRENCH MY
FORTUNE OUT OF
HER RAPACIOUS
HANDS.

AND THEN
THE TWO OF US
WILL STAY RIGHT HERE,
MARRY RIGHT HERE,
RAISE OUR FAMILY
RIGHT HERE. EASY
AS THAT.



AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CLIMB A
LADDER, GO THROUGH A WINDOW
YOU LEFT OPEN...

...AND
TAKE YOUR BABY
AWAY.

YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT'S SO MUCH
EASIER THAN JUST, I
DON'T KNOW, GETTING
ON A TRAIN AND
HEADING OUT
WEST.



I'M NOT
LEAVING.

IT'S GOTHAM,
DARLING, AND I'M
A WAYNE.

WE
BELONG TO ONE
ANOTHER.



HEY,
GIRL.
GOT A
SECOND?

@%#@%
OFF.



WHY
THE PRISY
ATTITUDE?

I'M NOT
THE ONE MAKING
WHOOPIE WITH PRINCE
RICHARD WAYNE WHILE
AT THE SAME TIME
BLACKMAILING THE
POOR CHAP.

I'M ACTUALLY
KIND OF NICE, IF
YOU GET TO KNOW
ME. AND YOU REALLY
SHOULD GET TO
KNOW ME.



##%##%
YOU'RE THE
CREEP FROM
THAT DICK'S
OFFICE.

YOUR
HANDS
ARE STICKY.
GET THEM
OFF ME.

BEEN WATCHING YOU. IT'S
PRETTY CLEVER, GETTING
US TO DROP OFF YOUR
LETTER WHILE YOU SPEND
THE AFTERNOON WITH
THE GREAT MAN.

I TOOK
SOME PICTURES
OF IT ALL. MAYBE
YOU CAN USE THEM
IN YOUR NEXT
PACKAGE.

THEY'RE PRETTY
RACY, BUT THE
GIRL IN THEM, SHE
IS SOMETHING WORTH
SEEING. LOOKS SORT
OF LIKE YOU,
IN FACT.



~SIGH~

I'M
BUSY. I GOT
THINGS.

CUT TO
IT. WHAT DO YOU
WANT?



HALF.

CHAPTER FIVE

**Written by
Tom King**

**Pencils by
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**Inks by
Eric Gapstur**

**Colors by
Jordie Bellaire**

**Letters by
Clayton Cowles**

**Main Cover by
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Eric Gapstur
& Jordie Bellaire**

**Variant Cover by
Jeff Spokes**

**1:25 Variant Cover by
Tony Shasteen**

**Editor
Ben Abernathy**

This comic contains language of a racially offensive nature and may not be suitable for all age groups. Its inclusion is an intentional creative choice intended to highlight the fact that language of this type was frequently deployed in past decades and remains in use today, even as contexts evolve. Readers for whom such language is triggering or hurtful should be advised.







I'd worked with Johnny for about fifteen years.



BANG.

He'd been a small-time crook when I was on the force, and I'd used him as an informant on bigger time guys.



BANG

GUH.

When I left and put together my own show, I needed someone who could perform the dirtier parts, who could look real genuine playing lowlife scum.



BANG.

BANG.

So I hired Johnny.

And for a decade he sat in my office and we'd chat about the news of the day, and he'd go off and do a few things for me, and I'd pay him what I owed him.



BANG

BANG

Looking back, I probably spent more time with him than any other person on this planet. All those days adding up.



When I heard about his end, I didn't feel a damn thing.





THEN RICHARD
WAYNE, THE KING
OF GOTHAM.

STANDING
OVER THAT
DEAD BLOODY
BODY.

HE
TURNED TO
ME.

QUEENIE.

AND HE
PULLED ME
TERRIBLY
CLOSE.

"AND WE
KISSED AS THE
RAIN FELL."

"LATER, AT WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE END OF THE THING, I MET YOU ON THE ROOF. I GOT THE MONEY AND GAVE YOU THE LETTER.

"THEN YOU AND HIM WENT CHASING GOOSE TO THE GRAVE, WHILE I WENT TO FETCH THE GIRL.

"I WAS GOING TO DROP HER OFF AT THE HOSPITAL AND THEN GET OUT OF TOWN. DOCTORS'D FIND HER AND GIVE HER BACK TO THE FAMILY.

"AND THEN I'D MEET RICHARD IN CENTRAL CITY IN TWO MONTHS.

"WE HAD A NICE PLACE PICKED OUT.



"WE'D LEFT THE BABY IN FINGER TOWER, IN A ROOM I KNEW FROM SOME OF MY OLD FRIENDS WASN'T BEING RENTED. YOU ALL WALKED RIGHT PAST HER.

"I ONLY LEFT HER FOR MAYBE FIFTEEN MINUTES WHILE I WENT UP ON THE ROOF, AND THEN I JUMPED AWAY AND CIRCLED BACK.

"BUT SHE WASN'T THERE ANYMORE.



"WE WEREN'T MEANT TO HAVE ANY CONTACT, BUT I WENT HOME BY THE PHONE AND WAITED FOR RICHARD TO CALL, JUST IN CASE.

"BUT NO CALLS CAME, AND I TOOK MY BEST GUESS AND FIGURED HE'D GOTTEN SOMEONE ELSE TO PICK UP THE BABY. I MEAN, ONLY HE AND I KNEW SHE WAS THERE.

"MAYBE HE THOUGHT I'D DONE SOMETHING BAD OR COULDN'T BE TRUSTED WITH THAT PART. I DIDN'T KNOW.



"I STILL HAD THE MONEY, AND I KNEW HE NEEDED THAT. I FIGURED I'D TAKE IT AND GET OUT OF TOWN AND MEET HIM AS WE'D SCHEDULED.

"HE'D EXPLAIN WHAT'D HAPPEN TO ME WHEN WE WERE BACK TOGETHER.



"I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS ANYTHING BAD THAT HAD HAPPENED. HE MUST HAVE THE BABY, AND I HAVE THE MONEY.



"WHAT COULD GO WRONG?"





"I WAS ACROSS THE BRIDGE DOING EIGHTY ON BARR HIGHWAY WHEN IT ALL FELL APART.

"I HEARD IT ON THE RADIO. A PLEASANT NEWSMAN VOICE.

"THE GIRL WAS DEAD, FOUND IN MY UNCLE'S BACKYARD, WHERE I'D JUST LEFT.



"I PULLED OVER BY THE SIDE.

"AND I THREW UP HARD AND HEAVY.



"I'D TAKEN THE KID. I'D TAKEN THE CASH. I'D JUST BEEN AT THAT HOUSE.

"AND NO ONE KNEW ABOUT ME AND RICHARD. HE COULD SAY WHATEVER HE WANTED.



"I UNDERSTOOD WHAT I WAS AND HE WAS. I GOT NO ILLUSIONS. NO ONE WAS GOING TO BELIEVE ME OVER HIM. NOT A SOUL IN THE CITY.



"I DIDN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT WHERE TO GO OR WHAT TO DO.

"THE WHOLE WORLD WAS EYEING FOR ME, AND THEY WERE GOING TO HOOK ME, AND WHEN THEY DID, THEY WERE GOING TO KILL ME.

"I JUST GOT IN MY CAR 'CAUSE IT WAS SOMEPLACE TO BE.



"THEN I DROVE BACK TO GOTHAM. I DIDN'T KNOW WHY.

"IT WASN'T UNTIL I WAS ALMOST IN THE CITY THAT IT OCCURRED I WAS COMING BACK TO SEE YOU."

It was a hell
of a story.



If it was true, we'd tumbled into the
sewers of the world's tidiest city,
and we were about to drown in all its
forsaken waste.



EVERYONE
KNOWS YOU DIDN'T
SAVE THAT BABY. I
THINK YOU KNOW
IT TOO.

AND THAT'S
YOU FOR THE REST
OF THE TIME YOU
GOT GIVEN.

A great man had
committed a great
crime.



RICHARD
WAYNE #5%\$@#
ME.

And he would need
to pay dearly for it.



AND HE
#5%\$@#
YOU TOO.

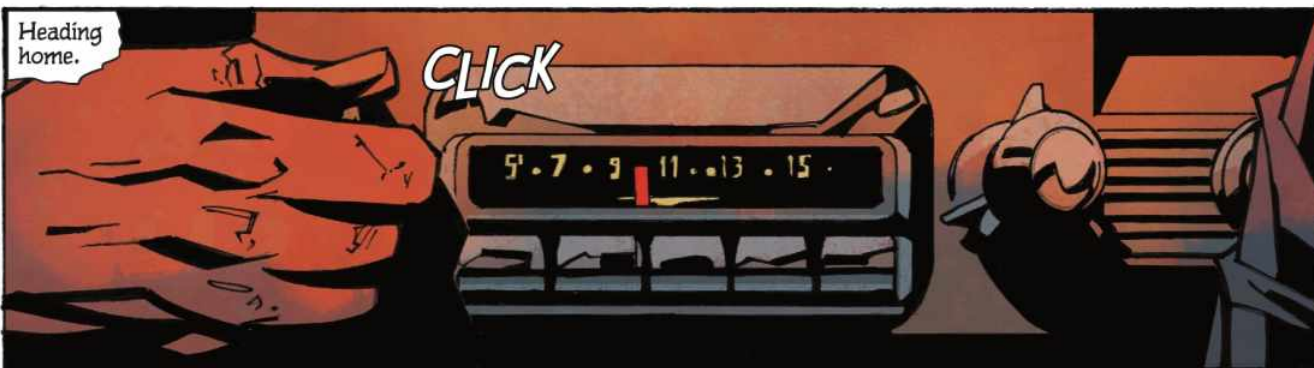
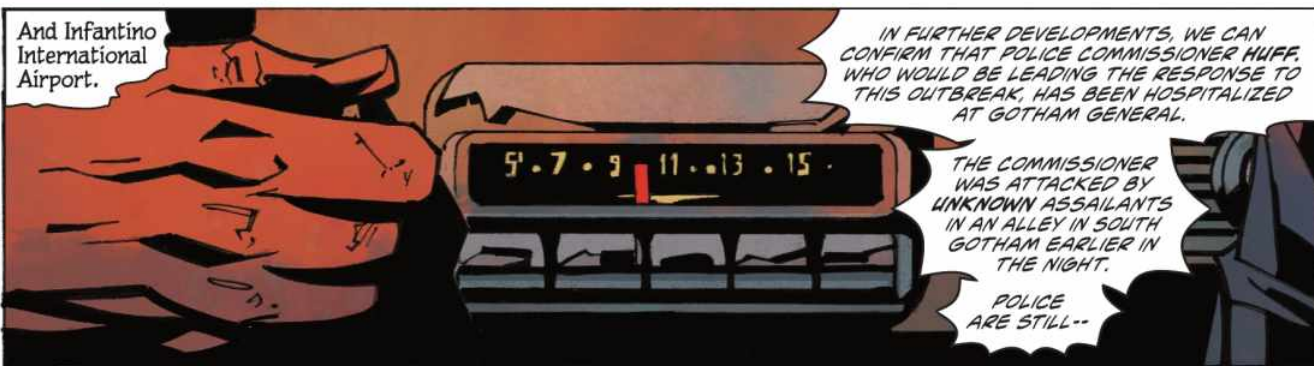
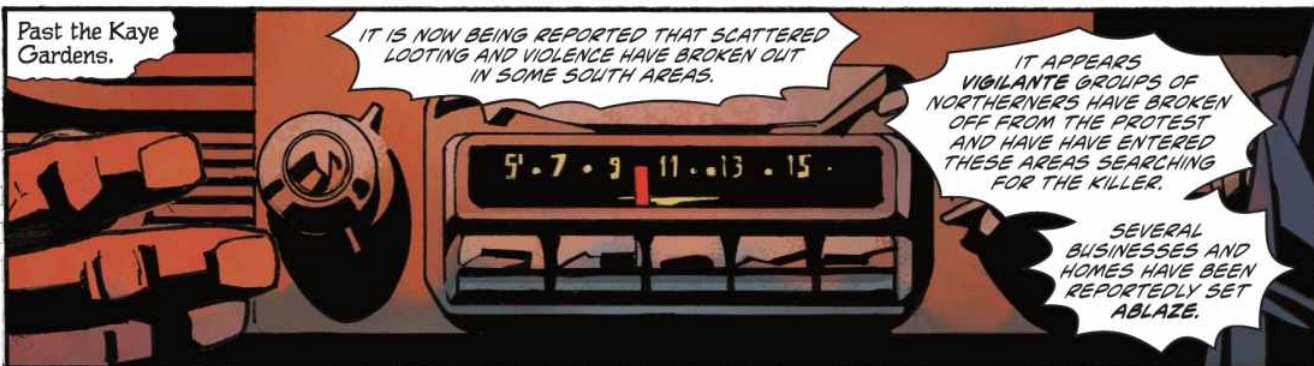
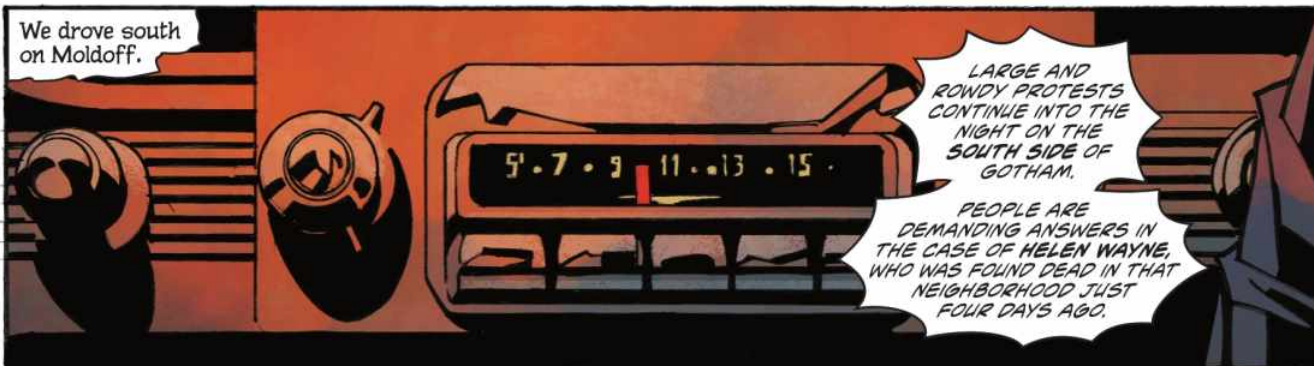
If it was
true.



ALL
RIGHT.

LET'S
GO.







Mom didn't like
guns in her place.

But at times
she made
exceptions.

IT...
IT ISN'T
ME.



SO THIS IS KIND OF A *GAME* WE PLAY, AND I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE FOR IT. BEFORE WE GET STARTED, THOUGH, LET ME GO THROUGH THE RULES.

I'M GOING TO DO A *READING* OF YOU THAT'LL TELL ME IF WHAT YOU JUST SAID NOW IS TRUE OR IF IT IS A LIE.

'CAUSE TRULY, I DON'T KNOW, BUT THE *SPIRITS* OF THE ANCESTORS MOST DEFINITELY DO.

WITH THESE CARDS, WE'RE GOING TO LOOK INTO THE CENTER OF YOU, AND IF WE FIND THERE THAT YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH, WHICH I *HOPE* YOU ARE, I DON'T MIND SAYING...

...THEN YOU ARE GOOD AND GOLDEN, MS. QUEENIE, AND WE WILL DO WHAT WE *CAN* FOR YOU.

IF, HOWEVER, THE CARDS SAY YOU'RE LYING, THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DRAG US INTO YOUR SNAKE NEST AND BITE US AND *POISON* US...

...WELL, IN *THAT* CASE, QUEENIE DEAR, MY SON IS GOING TO *SHOOT* YOU DEAD.

FOR THAT IS THE *PUNISHMENT* THE ANCESTORS DO DEMAND OF THOSE WHO SPIT IN THE FACE OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SACRIFICE.

IF YOU'RE LYING RIGHT NOW AND DON'T *WANT* TO OFFEND THE ANCESTORS, IF YOU WANT TO SHOW THEM SOME *RESPECT*, YOU CAN JUST TELL THE TRUTH ANYTIME BEFORE WE FINISH.

AND *BECAUSE* OF YOUR RESPECT, SAMUEL AND I WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR CURRENT FLIGHT. MAKE SURE YOU GET *EVERYTHING* YOU CAN GET.

IF YOU DO *THAT*, DOESN'T MATTER WHAT *ELSE* YOU'VE DONE--THEN YOU'RE ON *OUR* SIDE, THE ANCESTORS' SIDE, AND WE'RE OBLIGATED TO BE IN *YOUR* ETERNAL SERVICE.

IT'LL BE FIVE CARDS. THAT'S *PLENTY*, I THINK.

SHALL WE *BEGIN*?

ALL RIGHT.



THE CHARIOT.

THIS ONE TELLS US ABOUT YOU, WHO YOU ARE ON THE SURFACE. IT SAYS YOU'RE **STUBBORN**, CONTROLLED, THAT YOU GOT **POWER** OVER YOURSELF.

YOU CAN CARRY YOUR OWN FORTUNES WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE.



IT ISN'T ME.

NOW WE'RE GOING TO GO A TAD **DEEPER**, PEEL YOU DOWN A FEW LAYERS. SEE WHAT'S **LURKING** IN THE DEPTHS.



THE EMPRESS REVERSED. OH NO, SWEETIE.

THAT'S **DEPENDENCE**, THAT'S **EMPTINESS**, THAT'S **SPACE UNFILLED** BY THE SELF.

THE NEED TO **FIND** SOMETHING OR SOMEONE TO...WELL...I'M SURE YOU KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THAT. **H/M**.



IT ISN'T ME.

I'M ALMOST **FRIGHTENED** TO LOOK WHAT'S UNDER THAT EMPRESS. BUT **DEEPER** WE MUST GO...FOR ONLY AT THE **BOTTOM** WILL YOU BE FOUND.



MM, THAT'S NOT GOOD, HONEY. THE FOOL REVERSED.

RECKLESSNESS, CHARGING FORWARD AND MAKING MISTAKE AFTER MISTAKE. THAT'S WHERE THAT EMPRESS COMES FROM, WHAT THAT CHARIOT'S RIDING OVER.

ALL THE **WRONG** YOU DID WITHOUT THINKING BETTER. YOU POOR, **SICK** THING.



IT...IT ISN'T... IT ISN'T ME. IT ISN'T ME.

LET'S DO ONE STEP MORE, SHALL WE? THE ANCESTORS DEMAND WE KEEP ON **DIGGING**. I'M SORRY, BUT THEY ARE **INSISTENT**.



WHOOO. THE HANGED MAN. THE MARTYR.

THE GIRL WHO DOESN'T **MIND** DYING FOR SOMETHING, WHO'S GIVEN UP ON HER OWN WORTH AND LOOKING FOR SOMETHING **LARGER** THAN HERSELF.

A GIRL WHO THINKS SHE NEEDS TO BE **GONE** IN ORDER TO BE LOVED. THAT'S A **HEFTY** BURDEN TO CARRY THIS FAR UNDER, MS. **QUEENIE**.



IT ISN'T ME. IT ISN'T ME. IT ISN'T ME. IT ISN'T ME. IT ISN'T ME. IT ISN'T ME.



LAST CARD. THIS IS IT. YOU CONFESS NOW OR...

WELL, WE SEE WHAT'S **INSIDE** YOUR HEAD.

EITHER WAY.



She screamed.
She threw the
table.

IT ISN'T
ME!



And she
left.

##@S THE
WAYNES.

##@S
GOTHAM.

AND
##@S ALL
OF YOU.



YOU ALL
RIGHT?



GOODNESS, WHERE DO
YOU FIND THEM?

MY LORD.

YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE DOING,
SAMUEL?



I WISH I
DIDN'T.



I took Paris
back north.

THAT'S YOUR
MOTHER?

YEAH.



Past Golden
Cathedral.

YOU MUST
LOOK AN AWFUL
LOT LIKE YOUR
DADDY.



And the Fox
Theater.

WOULDN'T
KNOW.

NEVER
SEEN HIM. HE
WALKED; SHE
RAISED
ME.

I DON'T
THINK HE WAS A
GOOD MAN.



Heading
home.

THEY
KNOW WHO
YOU REALLY
ARE?

THE
WAYNES, I
MEAN.

THEY SUSPECT
THEY GOT A GENUINE
SOUTHY IN THEIR MIDST.



NO ONE
KNOWS WHO
I AM.



For all his faults there was a funny thing about former Sergeant. Loder, personal bag-man for Mr. Richard Wayne.



He was a family man.



Whatever garbage he'd done during whatever day he'd done it, he went home to his wife and kids, washed his hands, and hugged them deep.



So that's where I found him, curled up in his own bed, sleeping.

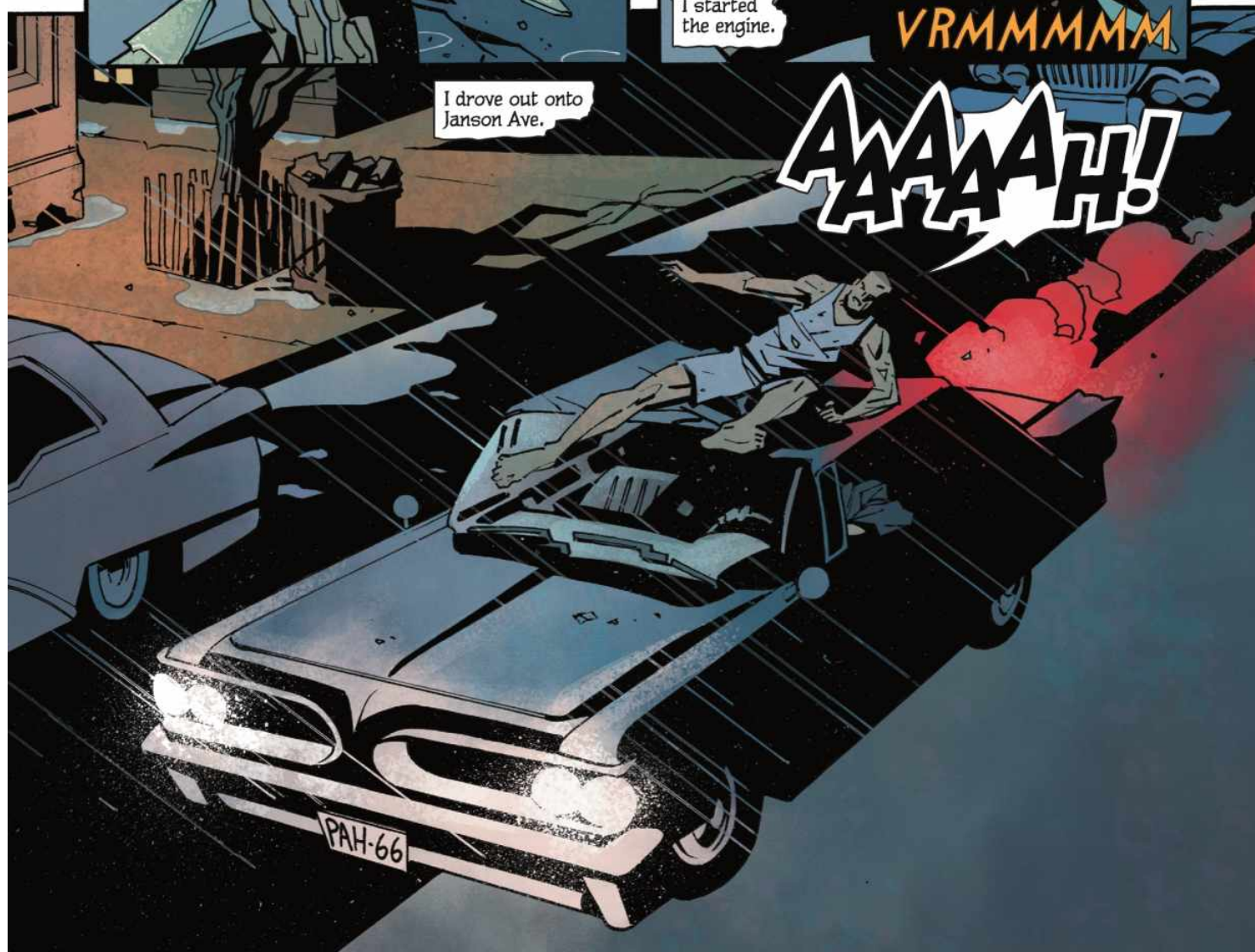


I picked him up and threw him out the window.





@\$&#\$\$%!





I rolled down the window.



HEY, LODER!
I'M GOING TO RIDE
UP A WAYS!

WHEN I
STOP IT, I'LL HAVE
SOME QUESTIONS!
I'LL NEED SOME
ANSWERS!

IT'LL
JUST BE A
SECOND!



AAAAAH!

JUST YOU
HANG ON UNTIL
THEN!



We careened through
the neighborhood.

It was was late and
quiet. The screaming
might have woken
some people up, but
I was past them
before they could
complain.

We went to the old Austin
junk lot on Aparo and Grant.



And I put on
the brakes.

NO!



SLAM



QUEENIE WAS
RUNNING. MR. WAYNE
WAS WITH ME. SO WHO
GRABS THE BABY?

WHO
MURDERS HELEN
WAYNE?

BURIES
HER IN QUEENIE'S
YARD TO FRAME
HER FOR IT?

WAY I
FIGURE IT, GOT TO BE
SOMEONE WAYNE HIRES,
WHO HE CAN PAY ENOUGH
TO KEEP A BIG DAMN
SECRET.

SOMEONE
WHO HASN'T
GOT AN QUINCE OF
CONSCIENCE
IN HIM.

AND
YOU KNOW
SOMETHING,
LODER?

THAT
SOUNDS AN
AWFUL LOT
LIKE YOU.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE @\$\$@\$\$@# TALKING ABOUT, YOU SON OF A @\$\$@#!

I NEVER TOUCHED THAT CHILD! I WOULDN'T HURT A @\$\$@\$\$@# BABY!

HOW MUCH DID HE PAY YOU?

I'M LOSING TRACK. WHAT WITH INFLATION AND ALL.

WHAT'S YOUR SOUL COST THESE DAYS?

SLAM



YOU'RE @\$\$@\$\$@# CRAZY, SLAM! I DON'T KNOW!

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! IT WAS THAT BLACK GIRL!

Like I said, it wasn't much of a plan.

HOW MUCH DID RICHARD WAYNE PAY?!



SLAM



But sometimes you take a stab in the dark.

JESUS @\$\$@\$\$@# MAN, WHAT DO YOU EVEN KNOW? THAT...THAT FRAUD DOESN'T HAVE A... HE COULDN'T PAY...

CARTER AND I...JESUS, MAN...WE DON'T WORK FOR HIM... EVER...

And sometimes that's enough to draw blood.

WE WORK FOR THE WIFE.



Loder explained.

They'd been hired almost a decade back to guard Richard Wayne from himself. Hired by Constance Wayne.

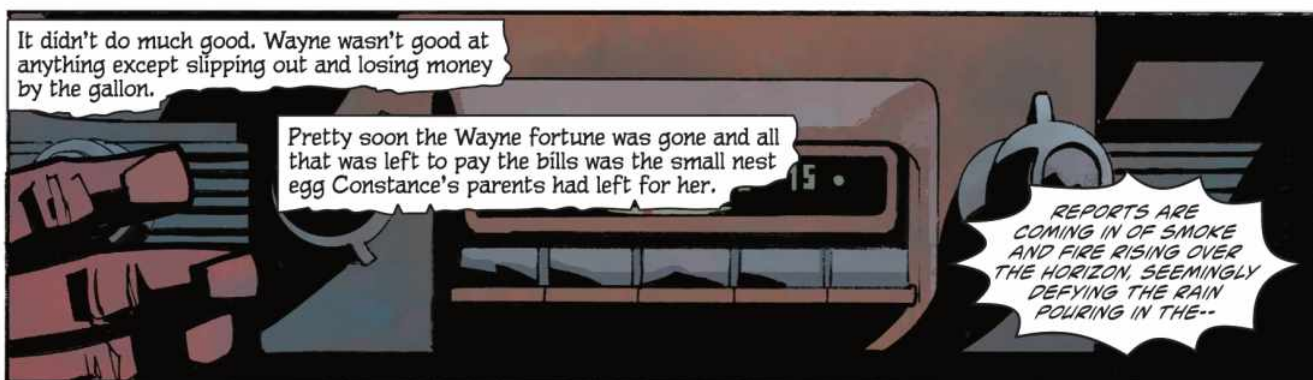
TENSIONS CONTINUE TO RISE ACROSS SOUTH GOTHAM WITH REPORTS OF RIOTS ON ADAMS, SPRANG, AND ROBINSON.



Mr. Wayne was a drunk and a gambler and a womanizer.

And Mrs. Wayne hoped Loder and Carter might stop him from wasting the small amount of his fortune he hadn't already tossed away.

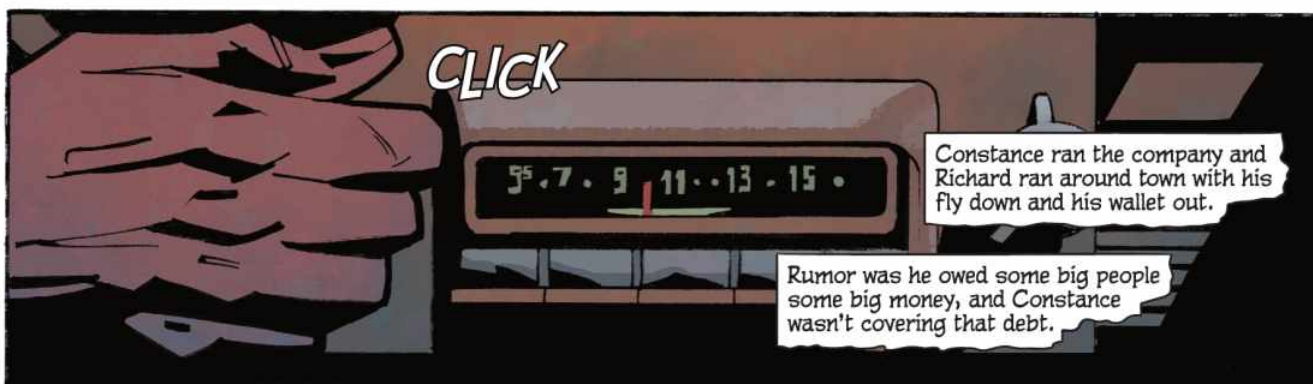
THE POLICE FORCE HAS DEPLOYED, BUT WITHOUT COMMISSIONER HUFF TO COORDINATE, THEY SEEM BE IN DISARRAY.



It didn't do much good. Wayne wasn't good at anything except slipping out and losing money by the gallon.

Pretty soon the Wayne fortune was gone and all that was left to pay the bills was the small nest egg Constance's parents had left for her.

REPORTS ARE COMING IN OF SMOKE AND FIRE RISING OVER THE HORIZON, SEEMINGLY DEFYING THE RAIN POURING IN THE--



CLICK

Constance ran the company and Richard ran around town with his fly down and his wallet out.

Rumor was he owed some big people some big money, and Constance wasn't covering that debt.



Queenie was wrong. He didn't need the money for some divorce.

He just needed the money.

HEY, THIS IS SAM BRADLEY.

I'M HERE TO SEE MRS. WAYNE.

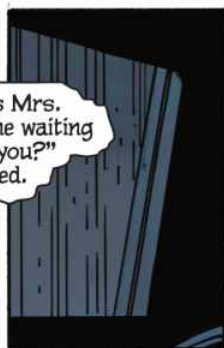


I asked where Loder had been the night Richard and I paid the ransom, the night Queenie lost Helen. The night the princess died.

He said he'd stayed at the Wayne's waiting for us to come back.



"Was Mrs. Wayne waiting with you?" I asked.



He took a second.



No, he said, she couldn't take the stress of just waiting there.

So she'd gone out for a drive. To get some fresh air.

By herself.



That was enough.

I left him in the parking lot and drove out west on Kane...

... Gotham burned behind me.

As I returned to the Manor.

**MILESTONE'S TWO TOUGHEST HEROES GO TO WAR...
AND THE BATTLEFIELD IS TIME ITSELF!**



ICON VS. **HARDWARE**



TM DC & © Milestone

Written by
REGINALD HUDLIN
LEON CHILLS

Art by
DENYS COWAN

Cover by **RAHZZAH**

**A MILESTONE
EPIC THAT
WILL SHOCK THE
MULTIVERSE!**

5 issues | February



In 1993, Dwayne McDuffie, Denys Cowan, Michael Davis, and Derek T. Dingle founded Milestone Media—and changed the comics industry in the process. In series like *Static*, *Icon*, and *Hardware*, Black and other diverse superheroes were at the center of the action, and underrepresented comic book creators were given the opportunity to succeed.

Today, Milestone thrives as a key part of DC's publishing lineup, and this February—30 years to the month since Milestone's debut—three new releases celebrate the past while propelling the Dakotaverse and its characters into the future.



STATIC: SHADOWS OF DAKOTA #1

Following the events of *Static: Season One*, the unparalleled creative team of Nikolas Draper-Ivey and Vita Ayala reteam for a new six-issue adventure starring Milestone's most popular hero. And while Virgil and his friends might have stopped the government's off-the-books prison operations in Dakota, a new threat lurks in the shadows—Ebon, familiar to fans of the *Static Shock* animated series, making his comic book debut.



ICON vs. HARDWARE #1

Two titans clash, with the fate of the Milestone Universe at stake! When Hardware discovers a time machine, it's good news for his ongoing mission of righting the wrongs of history, but bad news for the world at large—as his actions threaten to unravel the very fabric of time. Only one person can stop him, and Icon is ready to battle Curtis Metcalf across centuries in this five-issue series.



MILESTONE 30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL #1

Celebrate 30 years of *Static*, *Icon*, *Rocket*, *Hardware*, and more in this all-star anthology 100-page one-shot with brand-new stories, including a *Static* and *Batman Beyond* team-up, a grown-up Raquel Ervin inheriting the mantle of *Icon*, and a reality-warping story befitting three decades of the Dakotaverse—as the present-day Milestone characters meet their 1993 counterparts!

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

